(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other incentives Government propose to give to garment industry to boost their exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government have taken no specific measures to liberalize the customs clearance procedures for exporters of textiles and garments during the post-quota regime. However, procedures for clearance of export goods have been simplified in general in the recent past, and are equally applicable to the exporters of garments and textiles in the post-quota regime.

(c) No such measures are being proposed at present. However, the exporters of textiles and garments are eligible to avail of the benefits of existing incentives such as duty drawback, DEPB, DEEC, etc. Government has also provided for infrastructure facilities, simplified investment norms, duty concessions on certain inputs meant for exports, eco-testing laboratories, etc. to textile and garment exporters.

Memorandum for rise in G.P.F. interest rate

4233. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum dated 3rd February, 2005 from All India State Government Employees Federation demanding rise in G.P.F. interest rate; and

(b) if so, response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rate of interest on GPF for 2004-05 was fixed at 8 per cent taking into account entire gamut of issues. In respect of the rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund accumulations for 2004-05, the Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation have not recommended the final rate of interest to the Government.

Status of NPAs of Nationalised Banks

4234. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of NPAs in different Nationalised Banks as on 31st March, 2004, bank-wise; and